Road communications in Vypeen.

245. Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) is the Government aware that there is no proper road communications in the Vypeen island;

(b) does the Government contemplate the opening of any metalled roads in the Vypeen island in the near future;

(c) what is the land revenue from the Vypeen island;

(d) what is the total of other revenues from the Vypeen island; is not the total revenue from the Vypeen island proportionately more than from any other rural part of the State?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government will look into the matter.

(c) and (d). Information on the points raised is being collected.

Irrigation.

246. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to state how the provision of one lakh of rupees for irrigation was utilised by them in the year 1104;

2. will they be further pleased to state in what condition Thanikudam Scheme is at present?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) A sum of Rs. 6,000 was transferred to B. I. 275 of 1104 to meet the excess expenditure under investigation of irrigation projects in the State. The balance was not utilised for any works as the estimates already prepared in this connection are found to require revision to suit the flood conditions of the current year.

(2) The Member is referred to the answer to the 2nd part of the question No. 23 of this session.

Stamp defalcation case in the Excise Department.

247. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what was the punishment recommended by Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar (Excise Superintendent) to one Mr. Sangameswara Ayyar of the Excise Department against whom a stamp defalcation case was detected; will the Government kindly lay the copy of this recommendation on the Table;

(b) were the recommendations referred to above accepted fully, and if not, why not; to what extent was it accepted and what is the punishment actually given to Mr. Sangameswara Ayyar;

(c) did Mr. Sangameswara Ayyar submit a petition before the present Superintendent of Excise in this connection, and if

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so, will the Government kindly place the copy of this petition on the Table;

(d) did the present Superintendent of Excise make any recommendation to the Diwan on the matter of the punishment to be given to Mr. Sangameswara Ayyar while forwarding a petition of Mr. Ayyar, and if so, what was the recommendation made by him; will the Government be pleased to place a copy of this recommendation (of the present Superintendent) on the Table;

(e) what were the final orders passed by the Diwan on the recommendation made by the present Superintendent; will the Government kindly place on the Table a copy of the final orders of the Diwan?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(a) One year's suspension, reduction to Rs. 60 and payment of Rs.30 being the value of stamps to be accounted for by him. Government regret that they cannot place copy of the recommendation on the Table as no public purpose would be served thereby.

(b) The recommendations were accepted to the extent shown below. He was suspended for 3 months, reduced to Rs. 60, promotion being barred for one year and ordered to pay Rs. 30 being the value of the stamps.

(c) Yes. Government regret their inability to place copy of the petition on the Table.

(d) Yes. The recommendation was to the effect that the order of degradation and bar for one year may be cancelled. No public purpose would be served by placing copy of the recommendation on the Table.

(e) The original order was modified by cancelling the order of degradation and bar. Vide answer to last part of (d).

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know when this recommendation by Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was made?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—You want the date?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Yes.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—8th Vrischigam 1103.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—And when did it reach the Huzur?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—We cannot know it from here. We must search the file.

President.—I think it is soon after that.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know how long you were in the Department when you suggested that the punishment may be reduced?

President.—I think you took charge on 16th Makaram.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—3rd Edavam. Only 4 months.

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Mr. C. J. Mathew.—You were only there for four months. How long was Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar Excise Superintendent?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—I think for more than four years.

Mr. C J. Mathew.—Who made the inquiry with regard to the stamp defalcation?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, my predecessor.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, after this inquiry, suggested that he may be suspended for three months, his pay reduced to Rs. 60, promotion barred for one year. You had only 4 months' experience and he had four years' experience. May I know what were your experiences and what prompted you to suggest that the punishment may be reduced to three months' suspension and nothing more?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—There were several reasons. In the first place there was no positive finding that the man was guilty of the offence, but only there was the possibility of the stamps being extracted by him. There was some suspicion. Departmental inquiry is not like a prosecution. The man is convicted only if the offence is proved to the hilt. In the departmental inquiries, there is suspicion and we take disciplinary action, and give some punishment, if the man is proved guilty. There were other reasons. His previous conduct was also without any blemish. I made the recommendation for a reduction and the Diwan has already passed orders. I say for this suspicion several kinds of punishments have been heaped upon him: suspension for three months, degradation from Rs. 70 to Rs. 60, bar for one year and refund of the value of the stamps.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—All these were suggested by the incumbent who knew him for four years. You had only an experience of three or four months.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—I thought that the punishment was too severe, and so I recommended for a reduction and the Government took my view. Of course, opinions differ with different people.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Now, of all the punishments that were suggested, it was finished with three months' suspension and nothing more.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—And the refund of the value of the stamps.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—That is the amount he has taken. The punishment is reduced to three months' suspension and nothing more.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—There was no positive finding, only a suspicion.

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Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Then why should he be punished ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—It is not like a criminal prosecution. It is only a case of strong suspicion.

Punishment of a salt peon.

248. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) the date on which salt peon No. 115 Pappu was first entertained in the Department;

(2) how long did he serve in the department;

(3) was he suspended and dismissed; if so, for what reason and when ;

(4) were there any other complaints against him before that ;

(5) were enquiries made before dismissal ; if so, who conducted the enquiry ;

(6) was he allowed to cross-examine the witnesses;

(7) who was appointed in his place and the native place of the new man ;

(8) the number of peons in the Department who had put in continued service without break of more than 5 months at the time of the new appointment;

(9) had this new man any previous experience ;

(10) did peon Pappu petition the Superintendent to reconsider his case; if so, what action was taken ;

(11) did he again petition the Diwan and what was the result ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(1) 3rd Meenam 1076.

(2) Till 19th Meenam 1102, *i. e.*, 25 years 11 months and 13 days.

(3) He was suspended until further orders with effect from 20th Meenam 1102 and subsequently dismissed from service with effect from the very same date. He was accused of being instrumental in sending up a petition against his immediate superior, the range aminadar.

(4) No, but he had three entries in the defaulter sheet, *viz.*, a fine of annas 4 and two warnings.

(5) Yes. My predecessor, Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, conducted the enquiry.

(6) Yes, but in a statement taken from him the peon said that he did not want to cross-examine the witnesses or to adduce evidence on his behalf.

(7) V. Govinda Thandan, whose native place is Aylore near Nemmara.

(8) 23.

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